O Eternal God, our Heavenly [illegible] we [illegible] thee.
Thou art the maker and sustainer of us all: thou hast created us
and from thy rich bounty we take subsistance. Thou art the
creator of the earth and all that is therein - thou hast fashion
the moon and stars and even the infinity of the Universe. The
ordered realm of nature is the work of thy hand - the changing
seasons - testimony to thy wisdom. With the Psalmist we cry out
- How Glorious is thy name in all the earth!

Our Father we humbly give thee thanks for thy many
mercies to us. We thank thee O Lord for creating us in freedom
For granting us the ability to reason, to weigh & to decide. We thank
our Father for creating us in thy image - with the potential for
good, love and mercy. We thank thee for granting us the privilege
of living in a land of liberty - where we may shape our own
destiny in this life.

As we celebrate the sacrament of Baptism we are most
thankful for thine eternal love - love that envelopes us even
before we can know & respond: love that comes to us - not because
we have deserved it - but because it is thy nature to love.

Our Father we ask thy blessing and guidance upon us as
we seek to live according to thy will. Grant us thy grace
that we might have the eyes and ears of Faith: - that we
might be aware of thy presence in every situation. Give
us, our Father, the courage of Faith: that our affirmations
may become more than words - that our Faith may be living
and vibrant, shining in everything we do.

O God of mercy, we pray on behalf of those less
Fortunate than we. - for the oppressed & downtrodden, For the
hungry & cold. - We pray for those in our own number who
are ill - be with Mrs. Hearn - granting her the healing
comfort of thy presence.

All this we pray in the name of our Lord & Savior
Jesus Christ - to whom, with thee and the Holy Spirit, be all
Glory & all honor - world without end - Amen.

GOD'S ANSWER TO MAN'S DLIEMMA

WHEN ASKED WHY SHE NEVER WENT TO CHURCH AN ELDERLY LADY REPLIED: "WHY SHOULD I? I DON'T COMMIT ANY SINS." APPARENTLY WHAT SHE MEANT WAS: "I DON'T, STEAL, KILL, CHEAT, COVET OR COMMIT ADULTERY: THEREFORE EVERYTHING'S ALLRIGHT BETWEEN GOD AND ME." I HAVE THE SUSPICION THIS WELL MEANING OLD SOUL WAS ACTUALLY REFLECTING A QUITE PREVALENT MISUNDERSTANDING: THAT IS, THAT MAN IS SEPARATED FROM GOD ONLY BY THE BAD THINGS HE DOES, SUCH AS THOSE VIOLATIONS PROHIBITED IN THE TEN COMMANDMENTS: AND IF ONE MANAGES TO AVOID DOING THESE BAD THINGS--HE HAS SUCCESSFULLY BEEN A GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE PERSON.

THIS MORNING WE ARE DEALING WITH THE SECOND MOTIF IN AN ATTEMPT TO SET FORTH AN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION: "WHO IS THIS JESUS?" LAST WEEK WE SAW THAT JESUS, THE MAN, WAS A PERSON OFL GREAT CONTRASTS. WE SAW HOW HE WAS BOTH SENTIMENTAL AND YET STEADFAST AND STRONG: WE SAW THE GREAT CONTRAST BETWEEN WHO HE WAS AND WHO PEOPLE THOUGHT HE WAS. WE LOOKED AT THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION AND THE CHURCH'S AFFIRMATION THAT THIS JESUS WAS MAN WHO WAS GOD AND GOD BECAME MAN. WE SAW, FINALLY, THAT HE EVOKED A RESPONSE IN EVERYONE WHO ENCOUNTERED HIM. OUR SUBJECT TODAY, THEN, WILL SEEK TO ANSWER THE QUESTION OF HIS IDENTITY FURTHER BY STATING WHAT HE DID--WHAT HE ACCOMPLISHED: WHAT HIS PURPOSE WAS.

THE TRADITIONAL AND EXPECTED REPLIES TO THE QUESTION: "WHAT DID JESUS DO--OR WHAT DOES HE NOW DO?" ARE USUALLY--"HE SAVED US FROM SIN: HE RECONCILES US WITH GOD: HE REDEEMS US HE GIVES US ETERNAL LIFE." THESE ARE ALL TRUE: BUT IT HAS BEEN MY EXPERIENCE, HOWEVER, THAT PEOPLE DROP THIS THEOLOGICAL JARGON QUITE CONSISTENTLY WITHOUT REALLY UNDERSTANDING OR KNOWING WHAT IS MEANT. IT'S FINE TO SAY JESUS CHRIST RECONCILES US WITH GOD. BUT THIS STATEMENT MAKES SENSE ONLY WHEN WE ARE AWARE OF A STATE OF UNZRECONCILIATION. IT'S FINE TO SAY JESUS CHRIST REDEEMS US: BUT REDEEMS US FROM WHAT? IT'S FINE TO SAY HE BRINGS US ETERNAL LIFE: BUT THEN THIS IS IMPORTANT ONLY IF WE UNDERSTAND THE LIFE IN WHICH WE ARE PRESENTLY INVOLVED. IT'S FINE TO SAY JESUS CHRIST SAVES US FROM SIN--BUT UNLESS WE KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS: UNLESS WE UNDERSTAND WHAT HE MEANT, WHAT THE N.T. MEANT AND WHAT GOD MEANS BY HUMAN SIN THE STATEMENT "JESUS SAVES" IS JUST PIOUS NONSENSE.

The christian FAITH ASSUMES THAT THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH MAN AS HE IS: NOT SOME MEN--NOT JUST BAD MEN: BUT MAN: MEANING YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AND ME AND EVERYONE WHO EVER LIVED. THE CHRISTIAN FAITH FURTHER ASSUMES THAT THIS SOMETHING WRONG WITH MAN PUTS AN UNBRIDGEABLE GAP BETWEEN GOD AND HIMSELF. GOD AND MAN ARE SEPARATED BY MAN'S PROBLEM: AND TRADITIONALLYL THE CHRISTIAN FAITH HAS CALLED THAT PROBLEM SIN. CHRISTIANITY ASSUMES THAT MAN'S CONDITION NEED CHANGING: THAT LIFE, AS MAN EXPERIENCES IT, CAN BE A WHOLE LOT DIFFERENT. IT IS THE CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY THAT GOD HAS HIMSELF PROVIDED A MEANS OF CHANGING, MAN'S CONDITION IN THIS JESUS CHRIS CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS "GOD'S ANSWER TO MAN'S DILEMMA."

BUT ~~TO RETURN TO AN EARLIER POINT~~: I DON'T THINK WE CAN ASSUME THAT THIS ESSENTIAL POINT IS UNIVERSALLY UNDERSTOOD. I DON'T THINK IT'S AT ALL OBVIOUS THAT WE KNOW WHO JESUS IS BECAUSE WE KNOW WHAT HE DID. TO THE CONTRARY I THINK WE COULD BUILD A GOOD CASE FOR JUST THE OPPOSITE: THAT IS, THAT A MULTITUDE OF MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUND ABOUT JESUS BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DID WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THERE IS ABOUT MAN THAT NEEDS CHANGING: WE HAVEN'T SERIOUSLY AND INTELLIGENTLY COME TO GRIPS WITH HUMAN SIN.

EVEN OUTSIDE OF THE JUDAIC-CHRISTIAN TRADITION--MEN HAVE SEEN THAT THERE IS SOMETHING FUNDAMENTALLY AMISS IN THE HUMAN SITUATION. THE APOSTLE PAUL, IN OUR TEXT FOR THIS MORNING STATED THE DILEMMA IN THE FAMOUS WORDS ("I DO NOT DO THE GOOD I WANT, BUT THE EVIL ID O NOT WANT IS WHAT I DO.") IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT SIMILAR WORDS HAVE BEEN PENNED BY MEN OF PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE. OVID SAID ("I PERCEIVE THE BETTER AND APPROVE OF IT BUT I FOLLOW THAT WHICH IS WORSE.") SPEAKING OF MAN, EPICTETUS, THE GREAT PHILOSOPHER SAID: ("WHAT HE WANTS HE DOES NOT DO, AND WHAT HE DOES NOT WANT HE DOES.") WHAT THESE MEN ARE SAYING IS THAT MAN, EVEN IF HE SEES THE GOOD AND WANTS TO DO IT, HE IS PREVENTED BY SOMETHING INSIDE HIMSELF.

A REVOLUTION HAS OCCURRED IN THE PAST ~~50~~ 100 YRS. IN THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES. (COMPLETELY APART FROM, AND SOMETIMES HOSTILE TO, THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, MEN OF PSYCHOLOGY, PSYCHIATRY AND SOCIOLOGY BEGAN FORMULATING THEORIES THAT SOUNDED STRIKINGLY LIKE ST. PAUL. DEPTH PSYCHIATRY

that has documented these ancient ideas

BEGAN DABBLING IN ~~MAN'S~~ the SUBCONSCIOUS AND DISCOVERED THAT MAN RESPONDS TO MANY MOTIVES THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW EXISTED. SIGMUND FREUD WAS ONE OF THE FIRST TO ASSERT THAT WITHIN MAN THERE ARE DESTRUCTIVE IMPULSES AND THAT THESE IMPULSES ARE EXPRESSED IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. SOME PEOPLE GIVE THEM FULL VENT AND DESTROY: THIS DOESN'T EVEN HAVE TO BE DOCUMENTED: OTHERES SUBLIMATE THE DESTRUCTIVE IMPULSE: CHANNELING IT INTO SOME SOCIAL ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR. PERHAPS THIS IS ALL ACADEMIC BUT IT DOES SHOW THAT WHEN THE PREACHER MOUNTS THE PULPIT AND CALLS HIS FLOCK A BUNCH OF SINNERS HE IS NOT AT ALL ALONE IN HIS INDICTMENT. IT DOES SHOW THAT ST. PAUL HAD A HOLD OF SOMETHING THAT OTHER MEN TOOK ~~[illegible]~~ 1900 YEARS TO GRASP--THE FACT OF HUMAN evil or sin.

WE DON'T HAVE TO BE A PSYCHIATRIST OR EVEN CHRISTIANS TO BE AWARE OF MAN'S EVIL. IN FACT PROBABLY THE BEST TEXT BOOK OF ALL IS THE DAILY NEWS MEDIA. MEN HAVE FOUGNT AND KILLED AND DESTROYED EACH OTHER FOR AS LONG AS THEY HAVE BEEN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. MEN DESTROY EACH OTHERE IN WARS, IN THE CITY STREETS: MEN DESTROY EACH OTHER WITH ECONOMIC WEAPONS, WITH CYNICISM AND UNCONCERN: MEN DESTROY EVERY DAY BECAUSE MEN DON'T SEEM TO BE ABLE TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT THERE ARE OTHER MEN WHO HAVE CARES AND CONCERNS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THEIR OWN.

WHAT IS SIN? THE OLD TESTAMENT, IN THE CREATION STORY, IMMEDITAELY DEFINES SIN AS DISOBEDIANCE IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN EPIC ADAM AND EVE ARE GIVEN FREEDOM OF CHOICE THEY MAY DO WHAT THEY WANT ~~TO~~--EXCEPT EAT THE FRUIT OF ONE TREE. THEY ARE GIVEN THEIR BOUNDARIES AND YET THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT IS PRECISELY WHAT THEY EAT. THIS SETS THE STAGE FOR THE WHOLE HISTORY OF ISRAEL THE WHOLE STORY OF MANKIND.

AGAIN AND AGAIN THE PEOPLE DISOBEY GOD BY STEPPING OUT OF THE BOUNDARIES OF OBEDIENCE. THY ~~ARE~~ WERE GIVEN A LAW, AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN THEY ~~BREAK~~ BROKE IT. GRADUALLY THE LAW EXPANDED AND GRADUALLY THE HEBRAIC DOCTRINE OF SIN MOVED AWAY FROM THE FUNDAMENTAL REBELLION OF ADAM AND EVE AND ~~BECAUSE~~ BECAME ENTIRELY ASSOCIATED WITH WRITTEN LAWS. TO SIN WAS TO BREAK THE LAW: TO OBEY THE LAW WAS TO LIVE WITHOUT SIN. THIS IS THE SETTING WHEN JESUS CHRIST WAS BORN.

AS YOU KNOW, HOWEVER, THIS LEGALISTIC NOTION OF SIN, AS DISOBEDIENCE TO THE LAW, DID NOT GO DOWN WELL WITH OUR LORD. IN FACT, FROM THE OUTSET, HE MADE HIS FRIENDS IN THE CLASS OF PEOPLE WHO HAD TECHNICALLY AND LEGALLY EARNED THE NAME SINNERS. THEY WEREN'T BAD PEOPLE: THEY JUST DIDN'T PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO THE ELABORATE JEWISH LAW. ON THE OTHER HAND, JESUS WAS MOST CRITICAL, MOST CAUSTIC WHEN HE CONFRONTED MEN WHO TECHNICALLY AND LEGALLY WERE NOT SINNERS. IT WAS THESE--THE PIOUS SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, THE MEN WHO LIVED LEGALLY SPOTLESS LIVES AND THEN FLAUNTED THEIR PIETY, THAT INCURRED HIS WRATH. IN THE SERMON ON THE MT. JESUS DEFINED FURTHER WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS THE LOCUS OF MAN'S SIN. THE OLD LAW SAID "THOU SHALT NOT KILL" BUT JESUS SAID "WHOEVER IS ANGRY WITH HIS BROTHER IS LIABLE TO JUDGMENT." THE OLD LAW SAID "THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY." BUT JESUS SAID "EVERYONE WHO LOOKS AT A WOMAN LUSTFULLY HAS ALREADY COMMITTED ADULTERY WITH HER IN HIS HEART."

IN OTHER WORDS, SIN IS NOT SO MUCH THE DOING OF BAD THINGS AS IT IS IN THE MOTIVES, AND EMOTIONS AND FEELINGS THAT LIE BENEATH THE SURFACE OF ORDINARY BEHAVIOR.

IN THE WORDS HE SPOKE--AND THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM HE ASSOCIATED, JESUS TOOK THE OLD TESTAMENT DOCTRINE OF SIN, AS LEGAL DISOBEDIENCE, AND DEEPENED IT TO INCLUDE DISOBEDIENCE IN THE HEART. FOR JESUS CHRIST, SIN RAN DEEPLY IN THE NATURE OF MAN. AS HE TALKED WITH THE PHARISEE AND THE PROSTITUTE, THE MAN OF RELIGIOUS PIETY AND THE WOMEN OF EVIL ONE WAS NO BETTER OR WORSE THAN THE OTHER: EACH WAS A SINNER.

THE APOSTLE PAUL, WHOSE TEXT WE BEGAN WITH, PUSHED THIS UNDERSTANDING EVEN FURTHER. TO HE TOOK JESUS' TEACHINGS AND ACTIONS AND ADDED SOME THEOLOGICAL DEPTH. THE RESULT OF HIS OWN STRUGGLE IS BEAUTIFULLY EXPRESSED IN OUR TEXT: "THE GOOD WHICH I WANT TO DO, I FAIL TO DO: BUT WHAT ID DO IS THE WRONG WHICH IS AGAINST MY WILL: AND IF WHAT I DO IS AGAINST MY WILL, CLEARLY IT IS NO LONGER I WHO AM THE AGENT, BUT SIN THAT HAS ITS LODGING IN ME" "MISERABLE CREATURE THAT I AM, WHO IS THERE TO RESCUE ME OUT OF THIS BODY DOOMED TO DEATH? GOD ALONE, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD" THANKS BE TO GOD."

THIS IS THE DEEP UNDERSTANDING OF MAN"S DILEMMA THAT I FIND MISSING--WITHOUT IT THERE CAN no real understanding of Jesus christ. MUCH OF CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANITY HAS DIGRESSED: WE HAVE IGNORED OUR LORD"S AND ST. PAUL:S PROBING ANALYSIS OF THE HUMAN SITUATION AND INSTEAD HAVE FASTENED OURSELVES TO A LEGALISM THAT IS MORE THAN A LITTLE SIMILAR TO THE PHARISAIC LEGALI IN JESUS DAY. WE STILL HAVE OUR LAW-THE KEEPING OF WHICH IS A SURE AVOIDANCE OF SIN. FOR SOME IT IS A LAW CONCERNED WITH ONLY THE MOST TRIVIAL OF HUMAN BEHAVIORISMS--SMOKING, ~~DRINKING~~ DANCING, PLAYING CARDS, AND GOING TO THE MOVIES: AND IN A SENSE DRINKING. THIS, I TRUST IS NOT THE STANCE HERE. BUT EVEN HERE, IN THIS ENLIGHTENED CITADEL OF MODERN PRESBYTERIANISM, I STILL CONSISTANTLY ENCOUNTER A DOCTRINE OF SIN THAT GOES NO DEEPER THAN DISOBEYING THE CIVIL LAW. AGAIN, IF OUR KNOWLEDGE OF OURSELVES AND OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SIN STOPS HERE, WE CAN"T EXPECT TO KNOW WHO THIS JESUS IS. THE TWO ARE INSEPARABLY UNITED.

WHAT IS SIN THEN? I DON"T KNOW THAT WE CAN DO MUCH MORE THAN DEFINE IT AS THE REASON THERE IS A DISTANCE-A SEPARATEDNESS-BETWEEN US AND GOD. I FEAR THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS SIN IS A WORD LIKE LOVE, A WORD THAT IS DONE JUSTICE BY NO AMOUNT OF SYNONYMS. BUT WE ARE QUES_ TIONING CREATURES AND ARE NOT WILLING OR ABLE TO ACCEPT A COSMIC TRUTH WITHOUT A PROPER DEFINITION. SO THEOLOGIANS HAVE WRITTEN HUNDREDS OF BOOKS ON THE SUBJECT. ~~AND IT WOULD BE FOOLISH AND USELESS FOR ME TO TRY~~ - Far too many TO EXPLAIN THE THOUGHTS OF EVEN A FEW. THERE IS, HOWEVER, ONE GERMINAL THOUGHT THAT HAS BEEN HELPFUL TO ME AND IT BEGINS BACK IN THE CREATION STORY. ADAM AND EVE"S SIN WAS DISOBEDIANCE, AN INABILITY TO ACCEPT THE LORDSHIP OF GOD. THEY COULDN"T ACCEPT GOD"S RULE THE BOUNDARIES HE HAD SET FOR THEM AS HIS CREATURES. AND SO THEY DISOBEYED AND MADE THEMSELVES THE ONE"S TO DETERMINE WHAT IS RIGHT AND WRONG. IN A WORD, THEY WANTED TO BE GOD. THIS REBELLION IS WHAT AFFECTS ALL MEN: IT IS A KIND OF PRIDE OR EGOCENTRICITY, NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH A MAN"S PRIDE IN HIW WORK--OR PRIDE IN HIS FAMILY--BUT A SELFISH PRIDE THAT MAKES EACH ONE OF US FEEL THAT WE ARE THE CENTER OF OUR WORLD: AN EGOCENTRICITY THAT MAKES US ALWAYS FEEL A LITTLE BETTER OR A LITTLE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE OTHER MAN. IF WE HAVE TO COME UP WITH A SYNONYM FOR SIN WE CAN DO NO BETTER THAN SELFISH PRIDE.

SPIRITUALLY, THIS UNDERSTANDING IS CRUCIAL: FOR IF THE EGO--if I ---AM AT THE CENTER OF MY EXISTENCE, GOD CANNOT BE, AND IF GOD IS NOT CENTRAL HE IS NOT REALLY GOD. IN OUR HEARTS WE REBEL: WE ARE LOATH TO RELINQUISH OUR CENTRALITY AND SO WE FIND OURSELVES APART FROM OUR GOD.

THE SOCIAL EFFECTS OF SIN ARE MORE EASILY SEEN. MEN USE EACH OTHER, MEN GO ABOUT LIVING UNCONSCIOUS TO THE FEELINGS AND DESIRES OF OTHER MEN. WE ALL FAIL TERRIBLY TO BE CONCERNED : TO LOVE OTHERS AS WE LOVE OURSELVES. CULTURALLY, SIN IS MOST EASILY SEEN IN MAN"S INJUSTICE. ISN"T THE RACIAL PROBLEM NO MORE THAN THE CUMMULATIVE EFFECT OF THE WHITE MAN'S EGOCENTRICITY? CAN WILLFUL AND INTENTIONAL DISCRIMINATION BE ANYTHING OTHER THAN A CONCERTED EXPRESSION OF OUR SINFUL PRIDE?

AS I SAID, THE THEORIES OF SIN ARE MANY--TOO MANY TO EVEN BEGIN TO EXPLAIN. BUT LET US REMEMBER THAT FOR PAUL AND FOR JESUS SIN COULD BE EXPRESSED IN ANY WAY.- EGOCENTRICITY CAN EXPRESS ITSELF EVEN THROUGH RELIGION.

THIS ANSWER TO THE QUESTION ("WHO IS THIS JESUS?") BEGINS WITH THE ASSUMPTION THAT MAN IS GUILTY: GUILTY OF SIN AGAINST GOD AND AGAINST FELLOW MEN. IT BEGINS WITH THE RECOGNITION THAT MAN IS ALIENATED FROM GOD AND FROM HIS FELLOWMEN. AND IT PROCEEDS WITH THE RECOGNITION THAT THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO TO RIGHT THE DILEMMA. ALL THAT IS LEFT TO US IS TO LIVE WITH O OWN SELF-PERPETUATING GUILT.

WHEN THIS IS UNDERSTOOD WE CAN BEGIN TO TIE SOME LOOSE ENDS TOGETHER. WHEN WE FACE OUR GUILT--OUR INVOLVEMENT IN HUMAN SIN, WE CAN BEGIN TO KNOW CHRIST THE REDEEMER, CHRIST THE RECONCILER--CHRIST THE SAVIOR--THE ONE WHO SAVES US FROM SIN.

THE MECHANICS OF CHRIST"S SAVING ARE FOUND IN THE CROSS. LAST WEEK WE DISCUSSED THE incarnation-the toal humanity and divinity of jesus. BECAUSE HE WAS TOTALLY LMAN HE WAS ABLE TO SHARE IN MAN"S UNIVERSAL GUILT: AND BECAUSE HE WILLINGLY SHARED IT HE COULD BE PUNISHED FOR IT. THIS IS WHAT THE CROSS OF CHRIST MEANS TO THE CHRISTIANS --IT IS THE EVENT BY WHICH GOD HIMSELF TOOK THE INITIATIVE AND TOOK ON HIMSELF MAN's GUILT. ON THE CROSS THE PR WAS PAID: BECAUSE THIS JESUS DIED--MAN AND GOD, MAN AND MAN, MAY BE RECONCILED: FOR THE GUILT IS GONE.

Paul TILLICH, THE GREAT PROTESTANT THEOLOGIAN HAS DEFINED SALVATION AS A "NEW DIMENSION OF LIFE." IT IS LIFE WITHOUT GUILT AND ANXIETY: LIFE LIVED IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT IN JESUS CHRIST GOD FORGIVES AND ACCEPTS WHAT WE ARE. THIS IS A NEW DIMENSION OF LIFE: ~~AND~~ AN ETERNAL DIMENSION THAT BEGINS RIGHT NOW. IN THE SACRAMENT O F BAPTISM WE HAVE AFFIRMED THAT THE LIFE OF THIS INFANT CAN BE DIFFERENT, IT CAN INCLUDE A NEW AND ETERANL DIMENSION BECAUSE OF JESUS CHRIST. WE AFFIRM THIS EVERYTIME WE TAKE HIS ~~WORD~~ NAME ON ~~OURSELVES~~ OUR LIPS, EVERYTIME WE CALL HIM LORD.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST BEGINS WITH ST. PAUL:S DESPAIR--"WHO WILL DELIVER ME FROM THIS BODY OF DEATH?") BUT IT IS FULFILLED WHEN WE, WITH HIM CAN EXCLAIM-- "GOD ALONE, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. THANKS BE TO GOD!"